

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LISBON 05063 011717Z
ACTION SS-25

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R 011345Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
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INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 5063

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PFOR PINS AO PO US
SUBJECT: FLEC DEVELOPMENTS

REF: LISBON 4845

SUMMARY: EMBASSY APPRISED PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT OF FLEC
PLANS TO FORCE GOP RECOGNITION BY PUBLICLY DISCLOSING
DETAILS OF SEEMING GOP APPROVAL OF FLEC. END SUMMARY.

1. GOP INFORMED: EMBASSY APPRISED FOREIGN MINISTRY ON
JUNE 21 OF CABINDA ENCLAVE LIBERATION FRONT (FLEC)
PLANS TO PUBLICLY DISCLOSE DETAILS OF SEEMING GOP
APPROVAL OF FLEC (REFTEL, PARA 6). ON JUNE 28, A
MINISTRY OFFICIAL (RIBEIRO DE MENESES, AFRICA-ASIA
DIVISION) BRIEFED EMBOFF ON ENSUING DEVELOPMENTS.
NEWS OF THE THREAT, HE SAID, WAS TAKEN TO THE
MINISTRY'S "HIGHEST LEVEL," WHERE IT WAS EVALUATED
AS "EXTREMELY SERIOUS." THE GOP SOUGHT TO BLOCK PUBLICATION
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PAGE 02 LISBON 05063 011717Z

OF STORY AFTER ASCERTAINING THAT FLEC HAD INDEED GONE
TO VARIOUS NEWSPAPERS. THE GOP HAS BEEN SUCCESSFUL;
THUS FAR THE STORY HAS ONLY APPEARED ONCE, BURIED IN
THE BACK PAGES OF A JUNE 26 LOW-CIRCULATION SUNDAY
WEEKLY. THE ITEM WAS BRIEF, UNACCOMPANIED BY PICTURES,
AND SEEMINGLY SLIPPED BY UNNOTICED. PORTUGUESE EMBASSIES
AND CUSTOMS POLICE HAVE BEEN ALERTED TO THE PROBLEM AND

WARNED TO AVOID A REPETITION OF THE ERROR. MENESES STRESSED THAT EMBASSY WARNING WAS "GREATLY APPRECIATED AT HIGH LEVELS" IN MINISTRY.

2. MOBUTU SPONSORSHIP: MENSES STATED THAT VISAS IN QUESTION WERE ISSUED BY EMBASSY IN KINSHASA. EMBASSY WOULD NOT HAVE DONE SO BUT FOR THE FACT THAT THE THREE FLEC APPLICANTS WERE SPONSORED BY A "HIGH LEVEL INDIVIDUAL ON MOBUTU'S PERSONAL STAFF," WHO BUTTONHOLED PORTUGUESE AMBASSADOR AT HOME. AMBASSADOR COULD NOT REFUSE.

3. SHAKE UP IN FLEC LEADERSHIP?: JUNE 22 LOCAL PRESS REPORTED THAT A COMMUNIQUE RELEASED IN KINSHASA BY FLEC "MILITARY COMMANDERS" ANNOUNCED THE DISMISSAL OF "FLEC PRESIDENT HENRIQUE NZITA AND HIS EUROPEAN REPRESENTATIVE COL JEAN DA COSTA" AND THEIR REPLACEMENT BY A FOUR-MAN COLLEGIUM. BOTH N'ZITA AND COSTA WERE REFERRED TO AS "BANDITS." SOME COMMUNIQUE LISTED FRANCISCO LUBOTA, THEODORE NAVUNGU, LUIZI BALLU, AND SUMBU PENA AS COLLEGIUM MEMBERS. MAJ LUIS MATOS FERNANDES WAS NAMED THE NEW MILITARY CHIEF OF STAFF.

4. DISAVOWAL: IN A PRIVATE, JUNE 27 TELEX FROM FRANCE ADDRESSED TO EMBASSY, THE "PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT OF THE CABINDA REPUBLIC" (GOUVERNEMENT PROVISOR DE LA
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PAGE 03 LISBON 05063 011717Z

REPUBLIQUE DE CABINDA -- GRPC) DISAVOWED THE "DEATH OR ARREST" OF FLEC PRESIDENT N'ZITA AND STATED THAT GRPC WAS FORCED TO MOVE FROM THE SANDA MASSALA "CAPITAL" TO ANOTHER TOWN IN THE "LIBERATED ZONE." TELEX SAID THAT ONLY THE N'ZITA GOVERNMENT COULD REPRESENT CABINDAN PEOPLE AND WARNED EMBASSY NOT TO HAVE ANY CONTACT WITH JEAN DA COSTA OR XAVIER LUBOTA AND FRIENDS. TELEX WAS SIGNED BY FLEC FINANCE MINISTER YUMBA AND MAJ BISSAFI.

5. BORY INTERVIEW: IN AN INTERVIEW PUBLISHED IN JUNE 24 ISSUE OF "O RETORNADO" A RIGHT-WING WEEKLY AIMED AT FORMER INHABITANTS OF PORTUGUESE EX-COLONIES, FLEC FOREIGN MINISTER BERNARD BORY CRITICIZED USG "INSENSITIVITY" TO ISSUE OF CABINDAN INDEPENDENCE IN GENERAL AND HUMANITARIAN AID TO REFUGEES IN PARTICULAR BORY GAVE DISTORTED VERSIONS OF EMBASSY RESPONSES TO FLEC DEMANDS. THE USG POSITION, HE ALSO STATED, WAS OBTAINED "IN NUMEROUS MEETINGS AT THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN LISBON."

6. COMMENT: EMBASSY PLANS TO INFORM BORY THAT HIS

LAST MEETING WITH EMBASSY LISBON WILL DATE FROM HIS
NEXT PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF SUCH ENCOUNTERS.
CARLUCCI

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